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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/898,639	07/03/2001	Satoshi Hasegawa	P/126-206	9675

7590

06/14/2005

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EXAMINER

AZAD, ABUL K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/898,639	Applicant(s) HASEGAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner ABUL K. AZAD	Art Unit 2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/30/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on January 19, 2005.
2. Claims 1-11 are pending in this action.
3. The applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. For examiner's response to the applicant's arguments or comments, see the detailed discussion in the Response to the Arguments section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsurushima et al. (US 2001/0047256 A1).

As per claim 1, Tsurushima teaches, "an audio encoder including dividing means for dividing an input signal into a plurality of frequency bands and outputting a plurality sub-band signals, and performing compression-encoding for the individual sub-band

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signals outputted from said dividing means, wherein said audio encoder further comprises bit-allocating means" (Fig. 3, elements 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 16, 17 and 18; also at paragraph 0088);

"said bit-allocating means perform weighting in conformity to an equal-loudness curve that connects points representing pressure values of sounds having the same auditory loudness level for each frequency of the individual sub-band signals, and performing bit allocation to equalize a weighted quantization error in the individual sub-band signals" (Fig. 14, elements 532 and 530 and also at paragraphs 0137 to 0149).

As per claim 2, Tsurushima teaches, "said bit-allocating means comprises a memory unit (Paragraph 016, ROM as memory unit), and

"said memory unit stores a table specifying weighting coefficients conforming to said equal-loudness curve for the individual sub-band signals" (paragraphs 0139 and 0140).

As per claim 3, Tsurushima teaches, "said memory unit further stores a weighting table specifying weighting coefficients corresponding to encoding bit rates" (paragraphs 0139 and 0140),

"said bit-allocating means performs bit allocation to equalize a weighted quantization error corresponding to the encoding bit rate in the individual sub-band signals" (paragraphs 0146 and 0147).

As per claim 4, Tsurushima teaches, "said memory unit stores a plurality of weighting tables corresponding to the encoding bit rates, and said bit-allocating means

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selectively uses an appropriate one of said plurality of weighting tables" (paragraphs 0137 to 0148).

As per claim 5, Tsurushima teaches, "an audio-encoding method uses a psychoacoustics analysis incorporating the consideration of auditory-sense characteristics, such as limitations of human auditory capability and masking effects" (paragraph 0149).

As per claims 6-11, they are interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-5.

Response to Arguments

6. The applicant argues, "Tsurushima does not teach or suggest a bit allocation process that performs "weighting in conformity to an equal-loudness curve that connects points representing pressure values of sounds having the same auditory loudness level for each frequency of the individual sub-band signals".

The examiner disagrees with the applicant's above assertion because Tsurushima teaches above limitation at paragraph 150, particularly reads on "the allowable noise level is the output of the subtractor 528 based on the information of the equal-loudness curve transmitted from a correction information outputting circuit 533. . . .".

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

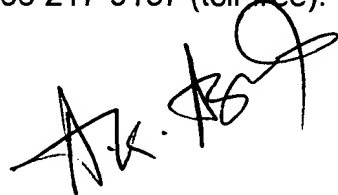
Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ABUL K. AZAD whose telephone number is (571) 272-7599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RICHMOND DORVIL can be reached on (571) 272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AK. ASJ' with a large flourish at the end.

ABUL K. AZAD
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2654

June 8, 2005